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THE INQUIRING EDITOR

At a recent meeting of our Board of Directors our President suggested that each month the Editor of The Bulletin of the Illinois Society of Architects write four members, chosen at random, a definite question of interest to the architectural profession. The answers of each to be signed and printed in the following issue of The Bulletin.

It is hoped that the members will take a lively interest in the discussions that follow and make your Bulletin an open forum for free discussion of items interesting to the profession.

The members are also invited to suggest topics for questions that will bring out constructive answers. Two questions have already been received by the Editor and replies to one are printed in this issue.

GRAHAM, ANDERSON, PROBST & WHITE Architects

Ernest R. Graham
Edward Probst Howard J. White
Peirce Anderson 1912-24

Alfred Shaw Sigurd E. Naess
RAILWAY EXCHANGE, CHICAGO

September 11th, 1930.

The I. S. A. Bulletin,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Editor:

In reply to your letter of September 10th asking if I believe THAT CONTRACTS FOR PIPE TRADES SHOULD BE LET SEPARATE OR INCLUDED UNDER THE GENERAL CONTRACT.

This is a rather difficult question to answer as the procedure is governed by so many conditions.

First: The ability of the general contractor. In many occasions the general contractor's organization is not such that

supervision by them of the Pipe Trades would be of any great benefit.

Second: The general contractors vary in the markup which they place on mechanical trades. This markup, of course, has to be paid for by the owner. This not only applies to the original contract but to all extras as the contractor adds certain overhead and profit to each extra on mechanical lines.

Third: The architect has much more latitude in the selection of the best contractors if he handles the work himself. As a matter of fact, I have found that it usually develops as much work in this office if contracts are let through the general contractor as it does if we handle the work separately.

Very truly yours,

HOWARD J. WHITE.

FRANK D. CHASE, Inc.
Engineers & Architects
720 North Michigan Ave.

CHICAGO

September 12, 1930.

The I. S. A. Bulletin,
Chicago.

Dear Mr. Editor:

Replying to the query propounded by the Bulletin's Inquiring Editor under date of September 10:

The answer to your problem is influenced by three factors—viz: The type of building, its location and the character of the general contractor.

In general, it is our policy to award all pipe trades as separate contracts and, in fact, most of the other trades also. Over a long period of years we have found that this method of handling contracts yields the maximum in satisfactory execution of work and in pleasurable relations with craftsmen.

Sincerely yours,

TIRRELL J. FERRENZ.

MUNDIE & JENSEN Architects

39 S. La Salle St.
CHICAGO

No reply.

GRANGER & BOLLENBACHER Architects

333 North Michigan Avenue
CHICAGO

September 16, 1930.

The I. S. A. Bulletin,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Editor:

I am answering your inquiry of September tenth regarding letting of contract for pipe trades in the absence of Mr. Granger.

We believe that the contracts for pipe trades should in general be let separate rather than included under the general contract.

Our experience has been that when these trades are included as subcontracts, the general contractor is inclined to shop around and obtain the lowest possible bid, which is usually from an irresponsible firm.

Letting separate contracts enables the Architect to limit the list of bidders in the pipe trade work to companies which he knows to be responsible.

The character of the work in these branches makes it important that the Architect have considerable authority in connection with the choice of mechanical contractors.

Very truly yours,

JOHN O. MERRILL.

August 7, 1930.

To the Architects of Chicago.

CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARD

The initial introduction of this plan of award to mechanics was made on the Board of Trade Building, July 16th, 1930. So successful was this ceremony and so enthusiastically received by the owners, builders, mechanics and our own profession, that we are determined to make this a permanent feature of the Building Industry.

Will you advise this office if you have any building at present under course of construction which you feel would merit this award? We are anxious to select five or six good buildings which will be completed before January for this ceremony. Kindly make it a practice to advise us of any building in the future which, in your opinion, would qualify for such an award.

Very truly yours,
ARCHITECTS CLUB.
 Craftsmanship Award.
 Alfred Granger,
 President.

AWARD OF FIRST CRAFTSMANSHIP MEDAL IN CHICAGO

With a most impressive ceremony, the first public award of recognition of craftsmanship was made Wednesday, July 16, on the new building of the Chicago Board of Trade. This movement is a splendid achievement for its sponsor, The Architects Club of Chicago, and by its merit should continue to grow in scope. It is a plan which benefits alike those who provide it and those who receive it. The owner of the building receives the benefit of the intelligent and skillful work of the mechanics who create the structure; the architect knows his plans and specifications are interpreted and carried out as he designed them; the general contractor knows no costly mistakes will nullify his work and that to be associated with an award building will enhance his reputation for future building; and the men themselves feel a stimulus greater than the weekly payroll and at a later day may proudly say, "See, this my hands have wrought."

The Bulletin takes pride in the sponsorship given this movement during the past year and if the several articles on this subject have been at all instrumental in the culmination of the award on the Board of Trade building and in the creation of a permanent organization for awards on all worthwhile buildings in the future, we are well repaid. We express our good wishes for the continued success of this plan and pledge the aid of these columns to the furtherance of this civic undertaking.

The large smoking room on the third floor of the Board of Trade building was decorated purposely for the ceremony of the first award. The occasion took the form of a special meeting of the board of directors and the building committee. The recipients of the award—forty in number—had special seats in the two front rows. On the platform were Alfred Granger, president of the Architects Club; Robert Ostergren, president of the Illinois Society of Architects; Howard Cheney, president of the Chicago Chapter, American Institute of Architects; John Bunnell, president of the Board of Trade; Henry Rumsey, chairman of the Building Committee; Col. H. B. Hackett, of Holabird & Root, architects of the building; Carl Ferguson, of Hegeman & Harris, the general contractors; John Donlin, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor.

When the program opened, a bugler of the Legion Post of the Board of Trade blew "Assembly." President Bunnell introduced Mr. Granger, who told of the history of these Craftsmanship Awards. Mr. Granger outlined the formation of the New York Building Congress five years ago and of the subsequent spread of the movement to other cities in this country under the sponsorship of the American Institute of Architects, and even to countries abroad; of the part taken by the Chicago Architects Club in lending their support and of the formation during the past few months of this new body to promote these awards on all future buildings of merit. Mr. Granger stressed three important features, namely, the value of the architect, to the general contractor and to the owner.

Col. H. B. Hackett spoke in behalf of his firm, Holabird & Root. He compared the work of an architect to a composer who might write the score of a beautiful symphony but unless the musicians interpreted correctly and played with inspiration, the music was nothing; that a playwright might

write a wonderful play, but without the wholehearted enthusiasm and the correct delineation of the lines by the several actors, the play was naught; and so an architect with his plans and specifications needed the intelligent interpretation and skillful creation from the mechanics to realize the finished dream of his early vision. He went on to express his pleasure to be associated on a building where the mechanics had done such outstanding work.

Mr. Granger then introduced Carl Ferguson, who expressed, on behalf of Hegeman & Harris, their appreciation for the meritorious work on this building and voiced also the opinion of all present that this initial award should be an inspiration not only to the mechanics receiving the certificates, but to all of their fellow workmen and that such an incentive was certain to create better buildings, closer relationship between men and employers, greater appreciation from architects and owners, and finally that a workman wearing a lapel button identifying him as a master craftsman would be in steady demand on all good building work.

John Donlin was introduced as "the representative of labor who has the friendship of every architect in Chicago and the man best fitted to make this first presentation." Mr. Donlin spoke of the desire of the men themselves to do good work and what an incentive these awards would be to continued conscientious effort on the part of the mechanics. He congratulated all the men who had been selected and thanked the Architects Committee also for bringing this plan into being.

After Mr. Donlin presented each man with his certificate, Mr. John Bunnell, President of the Board of Trade, expressed the appreciation of the owners and the pleasure it gave them to be the hosts to the first public ceremony of such a character ever held in Chicago.

The following mechanics and their trades received the award: George H. Smith, mason; Chris Miller, carpenter; Wm. A. Halfpenny, mason; Arthur Blitz, cement finisher; Nels Tolf, ironworker; Wm. Lambke, sheet-metal worker; James Tennison, ironworker; Robert Miller, finisher; John E. Erickson, carpenter; John Abbey, tuckpointer; Wm. J. Mamek, ironworker; Camille Michelutti, finisher; Ray Paggoma, tilesetter; Charles Becker, mason; Charles Aurands, ironworker; Alex Johnson, ironworker; Wm. Best, stone-setter; Edwin C. O'Toole, plumber; Wm. Schunk, ornamental ironworker; Arthur Iverson, carpenter; James Pettigrew, sheetmetal worker; James Moran, steamfitter; Maurice Crossman, marblesetter; Charles Ball, marblesetter; John A. Meske, glazer; Harry Hauser, marblesetter; Odin Ohmstead, painter; Andrew Kreasnek, electrician; Edward Swearingen, constructor; George Hammer, plasterer; Wm. Watters, lather; Herbert R. Burrows, mason; Emil Wipkowski, carpenter; Frank K. Reynolds, electrician; Clarence Gerner, carpenter; Morris Shapiro, carpenter; Chris Lund, carpenter; James O'Brien, ironworker; Henry H. Holland, pipe coverer; Eugene Bornhoft, blackboard.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION

There is under way a state-wide movement for the organization of Property Owners Division in Illinois Real Estate Boards. The immediate objective of these divisions is to secure the adoption of the proposed amendment to the state constitution to remove the limitation of tax uniformity, a limitation which has allowed real estate to bear more than 75 per cent of the tax burden in Illinois. **The proposed amendment is to be voted on in the fall election.**

The first major activity for the newly organized divisions, in cooperation with the University of Chicago, will be an intensive research in the field of state and local taxation to **find means to lessen the tax burden on real estate.**

In this enterprise the National Association of Real Estate Boards has secured the cooperation of the U. S. Building and Loan League, the National Association of Building Owners and Managers and the Mortgage Bankers association of America.

The tax research is being conducted by Prof. Simeon E. Leland of the University of Chicago, assisted by W. O. Suiter of Texas Christian University; G. W. Mitchell, University of Iowa; A. G. Griffith, Furman University; V. G. Morrison, formerly with the University of Nebraska, and Neil Jacoby, an honor graduate of the University of Saskatchewan.

The research into state income taxes as a possible revenue source which could afford substantial reduction to real estate is now going forward. This survey is seeking to de-

termine whether real estate taxes have been reduced in states which have adopted income taxes, or whether the proceeds from the income tax have been used for improvement of government service or the extension of government functions and have in no way tended to lessen the tax on property.

The investigation will likewise seek to determine whether or not the state income tax reaches those not hitherto taxpayers or merely adds to the burden borne by those already paying real estate taxes.

CUBIC FOOT VALUATIONS

The Editorial Staff of The Bulletin welcomes communications from architects containing information of interest to the membership. The names of the writers will not be published unless permission is given.

The following is from a letter recently received by one of the Editors:

"The architect occupies today a most unusual position between the material dealers, manufacturers, the contractor, the bankers and the owners. A most interesting situation developed recently on one of my buildings. We had a very particular owner who wished to build a residence complete in every respect but not extravagant. I specified substantial materials, no synthetic products, plumbing was the latest design in colored fixtures; heating, a well known vapor system; electric wiring was the red seal specification, very complete, with large size wires and plenty of receptacles, in fact, the specification was what it should be.

"The bids received were higher, naturally, than the owner's expectations and we were forced to discard many pet ideas and use many synthetic building materials, cheaper plumbing fixtures, a less expensive heating system, the oil burner was discarded and a coal burning boiler was installed—electric wiring and outlets were skinned down to the least possible minimum and the house reduced as much as possible without placing it in the speculative building class. The final bids were between 25% and 30% below prices prevailing before 'the crash.'

"The plans, specifications and bids were then submitted to the Chicago representative of a well known insurance company. This party confidentially informed the owner that the cost of the building was entirely too high and that the owner was evidently being skinned by his contractor. On investigation the insurance company was found to be using cubic foot prices which were below the cubic foot prices of the cheapest speculative building construction in Chicago and vicinity. These official cubic foot prices were fixed by the engineers of the insurance company at the home office in an Eastern city and would probably be authentic in the vicinity of the home office.

"The question is, what are we going to do about it? In our particular case our client had a common sense knowledge of the building situation and was not at all disturbed by the insurance company's valuation. He made his loan, which was 35% of the actual cost of the property, and is proceeding with his building."

PAST PRESIDENT ALFRED GRANGER TO SAIL FOR EUROPE

on October 31st for a one year's vacation to be spent on the British Isles and the Continent. After visits in England and France he will spend the winter in Vienna and in the spring will visit Germany, Sweden and Norway.

The Bulletin, speaking for the entire membership of the Illinois Society of Architects, wishes Mr. Granger a most enjoyable and certainly well-earned vacation. He has labored for many years in the field of the organized architects, not only being Past President of the Illinois Society of Architects, but a Past President of the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and is also the extremely Active President of the Architects Club of Chicago.

The Bulletin expects to print, from time to time, interesting letters from Mr. Granger. We look forward in anticipation of such a treat, as those who know him will agree that there is only one Alfred Granger.

Well, here's "Bon Voyage," Alfred.

THE BILLBOARD NUISANCE

The 63rd convention of the American Institute of Architects adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That The American Institute of Architects in annual convention assembled pledges itself to do its utmost to combat the billboard evil and urges upon each of its chap-

ters the fullest co-operation with all public authorities, societies and individuals seeking to abate this nuisance, and each chapter and to such organizations of the country as are known to be working to this end.

The Institute has appointed William Stanley Parker, of that a copy of this resolution be sent to the secretary of Boston, to represent it on the Massachusetts Billboard Law Defense Committee, and it is cooperating with other organizations engaged in the effort to mitigate the disfigurement of the countryside of the United States—by products of short-sighted commercial interests.

But any national work by the Institute is incidental. The problem is one which must be solved by each state under its own sovereign power.

Herein lies a splendid opportunity for public service by the members of the Illinois Society of Architects. The architect, from the very nature of his profession, should furnish leadership in civic affairs.

PAGE THE ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS AND THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS

The following excerpts from a circular postal card issued by The Lord & Bushnell Company suggest that something seems to be lacking on "your plans."

"Don't hesitate to visit Chicago Lumber Institute offices, 30 N. La Salle. Inspect and acquaint yourself with the grades of lumber and ask questions. See Mr. Kraemer.

"Send your plans to the Institute; they will gladly look them over, suggesting lumber and correct sizes to avoid sagging and deflection."

Possibly friend Clancy refers to so-called "Private Plans" and not to the professional article.

INDORSING THE ARCHITECT

Recently the monthly bulletin of an association of home building contractors in a Middle West city called attention in decidedly condemnatory terms to an editorial in these columns advising the prospective builder to consult an architect before placing a contract for the building of his house.

Apparently architects are yellow fever to the members of this particular organization, and it is their policy to visit wrathful reprisal upon anyone or any industry that approves the craft.

Off-hand it is a natural presumption that if they are antagonistic to an architect appearing upon the job they just as vociferously oppose inspection of whatever sort. What they seemingly want is personal liberty to build any kind of house they can get away with, without restriction of any sort.

It is this kind of home building, where design, and workmanship, and materials, and inspection, all are skimped, that has brought the public into a state of mind more or less justifiably suspicious of all construction, especially the speculative sort.

And permitted the jerry builder to thrive and grow financially fat over-long.

Building Economy is for more architects and the most rigid of rigid building inspection.

Let there be no doubt about that.—Building Economy.

THE OLD CONTRACTOR SAYS

"Our daily papers have been devoting a great deal of space lately to the delay in formulating an up-to-date building code for the city of Chicago," remarked the Old Contractor the other day. "Now all of us boys fully appreciate the need of a revised code and we all know how antiquated the one now in use is."

"A few of the sections of the Revised Code are to be placed in the hands of a committee of the Illinois Society of Architects soon, according to Building Commissioner Paschen, for a review and criticism of the work."

"Well, it's all very interesting, but let us hope that the new code will soon be ready for final approval and use. It is one of the things needed if building conditions are to improve."—Bulletin of The Associated Builders of Chicago.

ART INSTITUTE LECTURES

By Frank Lloyd Wright

An exhibition of architectural designs and models by Frank Lloyd Wright will be held at the Art Institute from September 25 to October 12.

Two illustrated lectures by Mr. Wright have been ar-

ranged by the Art Institute, the first to take place Wednesday, October 1, at 2:30 o'clock, in Fullerton Hall, the subject being "The New Architecture," addressed primarily to the young man in architecture. This lecture is arranged for members of the Art Institute, students, and architects. The second lecture is for the public, and will be given in the Goodman Theatre, Thursday evening, October 2, at 8:00 o'clock. The subject is "In the Realm of Ideas." Admission to the second lecture will be by ticket, without charge. Tickets may be procured at the desk in the main lobby of the Art Institute.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Leon E. Stanhope,
Editor, Monthly Bulletin,
Illinois Society of Architects,
55 E. Washington Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

We wish to thank you for your letter of the 17th concerning resolutions passed by our Association at its monthly meeting held on January 28th.

We appreciate the understanding and kindly spirit of your letter and if you have no objections we shall read this communication at the next meeting of our Association, which will be held on the 25th of the month.

Yours very truly,

CHICAGO MASTER STEAM FITTERS' ASSOCIATION.
Louis T. Braun,
Executive Secretary.

August 5th, 1930.

My dear Mr. Davidson:

The last Bulletin of the Illinois Society of Architects announces its fifteenth anniversary. It does not seem possible that so many years have elapsed since its inception. The Bulletin was always a well-edited publication and I believe that it has gained in influence and prestige as time passed. I attribute its success to the fact that its intention has always been to advance and protect the interests of the Society and its members. Its policies have always been liberal and constructive and in that way it has secured and retained the respect and admiration of its readers.

Knowing as I do the labors appertaining to editorial work, I have a keen realization of the tremendous amount of work that you and your associates have contributed so generously to the Bulletin and the Society. I am certain that it has been and is appreciated by the Society and us on the outside, and can testify to our thorough enjoyment and profit from its reading through the years. Best wishes for its future and to your own good self.

Yours very truly,

A. T. NORTH,
Associate Editor.

Mr. Frank E. Davidson,
Monadnock Block,
Chicago, Ill.

NEW MEMBERS

The following well known architects were elected to membership at the last meeting of the Board of Directors.

Louis E. Ritter,
Robert T. Bourke,
Harry Glube,
Chicago, Illinois.

Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany
August 16, 1930

Mr. Emery Stanford Hall,
Addressed.

My dear Mr. Hall:

Today ends our second week in Germany, and I may add that due to the rain and cold it has not been very pleasant. However, in spite of this, it has been interesting enough to keep us hopping around from one town to another.

The most fortunate thing that has happened to us was a lucky acquaintance with a young lady, on board ship, who happened to be the niece of Ludwig Hoffman. He is, as you know, one of the famous architects of Berlin and although eighty

years old, is still active and is now finishing the construction of a new museum in Berlin.

It was our good luck to be entertained at his house one evening and through his family were introduced to the office of Walter Gropius. Mr. Gropius himself was on his vacation, but one of his designers made a list of every new building in Berlin, with the name of the architect and also the location. He not only did this, but took several days off and accompanied us to all these different suburbs where housing projects and interesting new buildings were either complete and occupied or in the process of construction. At night we were shown some of Berlin's most intimate places, not places usually frequented by American tourists, but real native German places.

Berlin, and in fact all the larger cities of Germany, seem very modern to me. Their system of living is not unlike ours in the states, and even in the smaller and more picturesque towns you are impressed with German efficiency and ingenuity.

We plan to stay in Germany several more weeks and then continue on into Italy. In all probability we shall return to Vienna the first of November as Mr. Granger suggested. I am writing from Frankfort, but haven't seen the town as yet. Tomorrow we shall see several outlying suburbs, the addresses having been given to me by some students at the "Kunstgalerie" in Halle, which, by the way, was one of the most interesting towns on our trip. The school, which dates back to the year 1000, is situated at the foot of an old fort on the Saale river, and in these buildings surrounded by tradition, are created some of the most original and unusual designs in furniture, jewelry and weaving we have yet seen. The students were very much interested in what we are doing in America and seem to think the U. S. is a heaven for starving artists. I did my best to change their impression.

When we have done Frankfort we shall go to Worms and from there make several excursions to Darmstadt and Heidelberg, which should prove interesting. I don't have enough imagination to describe our journey to Stuttgart, Murenbach, and Munich, so maybe it's best to close this letter and write one after I reach Italy. I hope you are enjoying good health and also wish to thank the donor's committee for this opportunity for travel abroad.

(Signed) ALEXANDER H. BACCI.

List of the men who passed the May, 1930, Illinois Architectural examination:

1. Raymond C. Johnson, Moline, Illinois—University of Illinois, 1925.
2. George Frederick Kleinhaus, 552 Oakdale Avenue, Chicago, Illinois—Armour, 1929.
3. Harold R. Lutz, 5858 North Kenneth Avenue, Chicago, Illinois—Armour, 1929.
4. Harry W. Pearce, 720 Peoples Bank Building, Bloomington, Illinois—University of Illinois, 1925.
5. Wm. N. Setterburg, 537 West 31st Street, Chicago, Illinois—Armour, 1929.
6. Benjamin L. Smith, 5151 So. Loomis Street, Chicago, Illinois—University of Illinois and Harvard.
7. Arthur E. Waterman, 147th & Michigan City Road, South Holland, Illinois—University of Illinois, 1926.
8. Talbot Wegg, 47 East Elm Street, Chicago, Illinois.
9. Edward T. Wheeler, 265 Wood Court, Wilmette, Illinois—University of Illinois, 1929.
10. Eric G. Steinbeck, 5218 No. Kimball Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.
11. Floyd Evans, 6903 Merrill Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.
12. Theodore A. Hartman, 6422 N. Richmond Street, Chicago, Illinois—University of Iowa, 1922.
13. Uda H. Koerner, 1661 E. 79th Street, Chicago, Illinois.
14. George M. Kedved, 2529 So. Turner Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.
15. John E. Sweet, 5838 Wayne Avenue, Chicago, Illinois—University of Illinois, 1927.
16. Albert F. Heino, 8944 So. Loomis Street, Chicago, Illinois—Armour, 1926.

IN MEMORIAM

Louis Bourgeois
August 19,
1930